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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : G06F 17/30	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/51031
		(43) International Publication Date: 31 August 2000 (31.08.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/04698

(22) International Filing Date: 25 February 2000 (25.02.00)

(30) Priority Data:
09/258,242 26 February 1999 (26.02.99) US

(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application
US Not furnished (CIP)
Filed on Not furnished

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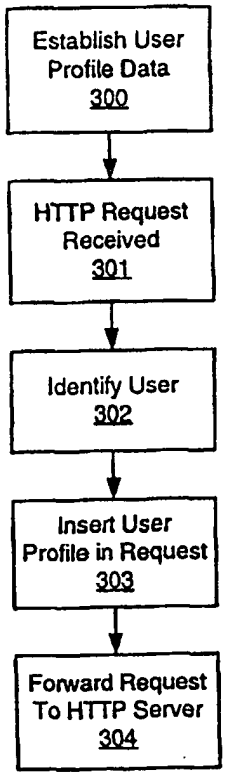
(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: PROXY SERVER AUGMENTING A CLIENT REQUEST WITH USER PROFILE DATA

(57) Abstract

A proxy server includes a database, a network interface, and a processor. The database includes records storing user profile information. The network interface is coupled to a network to exchange data with a client computer and with a target server. The processor is operatively coupled to the network interface, the database, and to a memory. The memory includes executable instructions for causing the processor to receive a data request from a client computer at the network interface, augment the data request by adding user profile information, and send the augmented data request to the network interface for delivery to the target server. A data transfer method performed at a proxy server includes intercepting a data request directed from a client computer to a target server. The intercepted data request is then augmented at the proxy server by adding user profile information and sent to a target server.



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PROXY SERVER AUGMENTING A CLIENT REQUEST WITH USER PROFILE DATA

BACKGROUND

Client computers can communicate with a server to remotely access information stored at the server. The transfer of information between the server and client computers may be provided using standard protocols and software applications. For example, a hypertext markup language (HTML) browser application at a client computer can communicate over the public Internet using TCP/IP and hypertext transfer protocols (HTTP) to receive web pages from a HTTP server. Web pages may include formatted text as well as multimedia elements, such as embedded graphics and sounds. Example browser applications include Netscape Navigator 4.0® and Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0™.

When a server receives an information request from a client computer, the server may require information about a user of the client computer to respond to the information request. For example, a server providing a local news and weather service may need a user's home address in order to select appropriate news and weather data to send to the user. A server can obtain the needed user information by sending to the client computer a data input form that is displayed to the user. The input form may include a number of fields that the user can fill in with data and then send back to the server. The server may then user the data in the fields in responding to the requests.

Obtaining data using forms displayed to a user can be an unreliable, bothersome, and time consuming process. If a server requires a user to input lengthy personal data or requests data that was previously provided, the user may become frustrated with the information service system and discontinue or reduce use of the system. This may lead to reduced revenue for the information service system provider. Additionally, a user may provide intentionally or unintentionally incorrect information to a server thus decreasing a server's ability to reliably process information.

A server can use a web cookie to reduce repetitive data entry requests by that server. A web cookie is a token exchanged between a server and client computer that may be used to store data or to refer to and identify past transactions. A web cookie containing user information may be stored at a client computer by a server during a hypertext transfer

protocol (HTTP) transaction, and retrieved by the server during subsequent HTTP transactions. In general, web cookies are unique to particular servers and are used to store data related to a particular server-client pairing. A server may include user data in a web cookie and store that web cookie at a client computer. When the client sends a subsequent data request to the server, the server may access the web cookie that was previously stored at the client. However, a web server may be unable to properly interpret another web server's web cookie and, therefore, may still need to request data items that are found in other server's web cookies. Furthermore, since web cookies are stored at the client computer, they may be deleted or modified by a client computer user. Therefore, even though a server may store a web cookie at a client, the server cannot rely on a web cookie being present during subsequent transactions with the client.

The present inventors recognize that obtaining data about a user through forms and other direct input mechanisms can be time consuming and unreliable. Furthermore, the inventors recognize that existing method of storing user data and tracking user interactions, such as web cookie mechanisms can be insufficient. Consequently, improved means of providing information about a user are desired.

SUMMARY

In general, in one aspect, the invention features a data transfer method performed at a proxy server. The method includes intercepting a data request directed from a client computer to a target server. The intercepted data request is then augmenting at the proxy server by adding user profile information and sent to a target server.

Implementations may include one or more of the following features. User profile information may be added to the data request by adding a user profile field to the request. The user profile field may include a header identifying the field as a user profile field and the associated user profile data. The field may be a HTTP formatted field added to a HTTP request sent from a web browser to a server. In a secure implementation, the proxy server may encrypt the profile data to limit the target servers that can access the profile data. For example, an information service provider may implement a proxy server that adds encrypted profile data to a web request. The information server provider may then provide decryption information to a limited set of business partners allowed to access the profile data. To limit the servers that receive the profile data, the proxy server may maintain a list of web server

addresses and may only add the profile data to a request when the request is directed to a web server on the list.

Implementations also may include one or more of the following features. The proxy server may identify a relevant user profile to add to a data request based on a network address received along with request messages from a client. To do so, a unique network address may be associated with the user. The network address may be assigned to a client computer when the client computer establishes a data connection with a network access point. Login data may then be received from a user and sent to the proxy server along with the network address. The login data and network address may be stored in a proxy server database allowing the proxy server to associate particular login data items with particular client network addresses. This may allow the proxy server to determine a user associated with a particular data request.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a computer program residing on a computer-readable medium. The program includes instructions for causing a computer to receive a data request directed to a target server from a client computer. The program instructions may then cause the data request to be augmented with user profile information and sent to the target server.

Implementations of the program may include one or more of the following features. The program may instruct the computer to receive login data and a unique network address and associate the login data and network address with a user of the client computer. The login data and network address may be stored in a database The program may further cause the computer to access the login data by retrieving the record from the database based on receipt of the address assigned to the client computer in association with the receipt of the data request and to determine user profile information to be added to the data request based on the login data.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a proxy server. The proxy server includes a database, a network interface, and a processor. The database includes records storing user profile information. The network interface is coupled to a network to exchange data with a client computer and with a target server. The processor is operatively coupled to the network interface, the database, and to a memory. The memory includes executable instructions for causing the processor to receive a data request from a client computer at the

network interface, augment the data request by adding user profile information, and send the augmented data request to the network interface for delivery to the target server. The memory may also include instructions for causing the processor to receive from the network interface user access data comprising a user identification and a network address associated with the user's connection to a network.

In general, in another aspect, the invention features a method of processing a data request. The method includes receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP)data request at a server from a proxy server, identifying a field added to the data request by the proxy server, determining a response to the data request based on the user profile data; and sending the response to the proxy server for delivery to a client computer. The added field includes user profile data and a header identifying the user profile data. The user profile data may received in an encrypted form and decrypted by the server.

The details of one or more embodiments of the invention are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Implementations may provide advantages including reduction of redundant data entry, reduction of user data entry errors, secure storage of user data, and automated user profile determination and dissemination. Other features, objects, and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows computers connected by a network.

FIGS. 2A and 2B show exemplary HTTP request data.

FIGS. 3A and 3B are flowcharts.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fig. 1 shows a network 100 that includes server computers 131-133 and client computers 111-113. Server computers 131-133 may execute hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) server software to respond to data requests from HTTP-based web browsers executing at client computers 111-113. Client computers 111-113 can send HTTP data requests to servers 131-133 over data paths that include access connections 114-116, a service provider's point of presence (POP) 110, network 120, proxy server 117, and network 130. The service provider's POP 110 includes data communications equipment that enables

and regulates communication between client computers 111-113 and the service provider's network 120. For example, POP 110 may include dial-up modem banks, cable modem banks, wireless communications equipment, or other data transmission equipment.

Access to a service provider's POP 110 may be restricted to certain users of the client computers 111-113. To enforce access restrictions, POP 110 may implement security and authentication mechanisms such as login verification. A login verification mechanism may require a user to input a valid user name and password to obtain access to the service provider's network 120. If the user name and password are invalid, the user may be disconnected. Security and authentication mechanisms also may be implemented at a separate login server connected to the service provider's network 120 and/or POP 110.

After a valid connection has been established between a client computer and POP 110, data may be exchanged between software applications running on the client computer, and applications running on other computers on the service provider's network 120. The service provider's network 120 may be interconnected with another network 130 by a proxy server 117 that can exchange data between the service provider's network 120 and computers on another network 130.

Proxy server 117 can function as a surrogate for another computer. For example, proxy server 117 may intercept HTTP data requests sent between a browser application at client computer 111 and HTTP servers at computers 131-133. When the proxy server 117 intercepts a data request, it may attempt to fulfill the data request using data stored at a local database or hard disk drive 119. If the proxy server 117 has the needed data, the data can be returned to the client computer 111 without requiring further interaction with servers 131-133. If the proxy server 117 is unable to fulfill the request, it may forward the request to a server 131-133, receive a response from that server, and send the response to the client computer 111. The proxy server 117 also may store response data on a hard disk drive or local database 119 for future use. Networks 120 and 130 also may be interconnected by a gateway, bridge, router, or other interconnection device instead of, or in addition to, proxy server 117.

A server 131-133 may be configured to receive data requests from multiple client computers 111-113 which may be generated by multiple different users of those client computers. Access to particular server computers 131-133 may be restricted to particular

users of the client computers 111-113 similar to the manner in which access to POP 110 is restricted. Thus a user may provide name and password data when accessing the POP 110, may again provide name and password data when accessing server 131, and may yet again provide name and password data when accessing server 132. Implementations may also use different access control mechanisms at POP 110 and at each server 131-133.

Servers 131-133 also may require other types of data from a user in order to process information requests. For example, a local weather information server may require a user to input the user's home address each time local weather is requested. A commercial web site may also require the home address in order to determine a user's shipping address. Input of such user data may be time consuming and redundant.

User data entry may be reduced by storing user profile information at a proxy server 117 and automatically sending the profile information to servers when data request are made. Thus, an information service provider (ISP) may store user demographic data or other user data at proxy server 117 and automatically send that data to selected web sites along with data request being sent to those web sites. In a HTTP implementation, data request may use the HTTP protocol. The proxy server 117 may intercept HTTP request sent from a web browser application at a client computer 111 to a HTTP server 131. The proxy 117 may then insert user profile information in the HTTP request and send the modified HTTP request to a server 131.

Fig. 2A shows a HTTP request 200. The HTTP request 200 includes a structured sequence of fields 201-203. Each field 201-203 includes a HTTP header and data associated with the header. HTTP headers provide a structured description of each HTTP request field and each field's data. For example, field 201 indicates that the HTTP request is a "GET" request to obtain a default web page from the server "www.acme-gizmos.com". Field 202 includes the HTTP header "User-Agent:" which indicating that the field's data "Mozilla/3.0 compatible" designates the type of browser generating the request 200. Similarly, field 203 includes the HTTP header "Cookie:" indicating that the data "been_here_before" is a web cookie.

The HTTP request 200 may be sent from a client computer 111 to proxy 117 and forwarded through the proxy 117 for delivery to a server 131. The proxy server 117 can insert a user profile in the request 200 as the request is forwarded through the proxy.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2A, when the proxy 117 receives the HTTP request 200, the proxy 117 can modify the request 200 to include user profile information. To modify the request 200, the proxy server 117 first determines a user associated with the request.

To determine the user associated with a HTTP request, a proxy server may use a table or database that can associate user identity information with network connection information unique to each active user. The user identity information and network connection information may be provided to the proxy server 117 during user log-in to the POP 110 or to a login server.

For example, referring to Fig. 2A, when a user connects to a network service provider's network by submitting name and password information to POP 110, a TCP/IP address and port, and/or other user-unique network connection information may be associated with the user's data transfer connection. The POP 110 or a login server may then send the user name and the user's unique network connection information to the proxy server 117 where it is stored in a database (step 300). When the proxy server 117 receives a subsequent HTTP request 200 (step 301), the proxy server can identify the user associated with the request 200 by querying the database of stored name and network connection associations. The proxy server's database query may be based on network connection information associated with a TCP/IP data transfer connection over which the HTTP request was transferred.

When the proxy server 117 has identified the user (step 302), the proxy server then may retrieve a user profile associated with that user from its database 119. The user profile information may be inserted by the proxy server as one or more fields in the HTTP request 200 (step 303). Fig. 2B shows a modified version 250 of the HTTP request 200 after user profile information has been inserted. The modified HTTP request 250 includes field 204 which includes user profile information inserted by the proxy server 117. Field 204 includes the HTTP header "User-Profile-Data:" indicating that the data "UserName=John_Doe, ZipCode=60609, ParentalControl=YoungTeen is user profile data. After the proxy server 117 has generated the modified request 250, it may then be forwarded to a server 131.

Referring to Fig. 2B, the modified request 250 is then received at a web server (step 321). Particular web servers on a network may or may not recognize the user profile data field 254. A web server that is not configured to recognize the user profile field 254 may

ignore the data in field 254 and instead process the other fields in the modified request 250. A web server that is configured to recognize the user profile field 254 can extract the profile data from the field (steps 322 and 324) and use the profile data to generate or customize data sent in response to a user (step 325). For example, a tourist information web server may customize a page based on a user's age, and interest. Thus, for example, if a user's profile indicates that their interest include art and music, the tourist information web server may provide them with a list of museums and concert halls. On the other hand, if the user's interest indicates that they like canoeing and hiking, the tourist information server may provide them with a list of public parks. If the user profile field is not present in a web page, the server may request user input to obtain needed data (step 322-323) and then generate a subsequent response to the user (step 325).

In a secure implementation, profile data sent from the proxy server 117 to a server 131-133 may be in an encrypted form. For example, field 206 may include a HTTP header indicating that the field contains user profile data in an encrypted form. Encryption of profile data may help ensure that only authorized web servers 131-133 will be able to extract a user's profile data. Encryption may be performed using a public key cryptography algorithms. In a public key implementation, a web server 131-133 may publish its public key at a uniform resource locator (URL) address known to the proxy server. Other encryption algorithms may also be used. For example, the Rivest, Shamir, Adelman (RSA) encryption technique may be used. Encryption of profile data helps to ensure that only authorized web servers can access the profile data. For example, in a commercial application, credit card information stored at the proxy server 117 may be encrypted by the proxy server prior to that information being sent to a web server in a user profile data field.

User profile data may be stored at the proxy server 117 by an information service provider (ISP) through a database 119 access interface. The access interface may implement a query language such as structured query language (SQL) In such an implementation, SQL commands may be sent to the database 119 from a network configuration or database access terminal. Other method of provisioning profile data for use by the proxy server 117 may also be used. User profile data stored at the proxy server 117 may be updated by a computer system coupled to the network 120, by the proxy server 117, or by a web server 131-133. The proxy server 117 may update stored user profile data by monitoring data requests from a

client and responses to those requests obtained from web servers. For example, the proxy server may update a list of visited web sites stored in a users' profile based on request received from a client computer. A web server 131-133 may also be configured to update profile information stored at the proxy server. For example, the web server, in responding to a data request, may insert a user data profile update field in the HTTP request data being sent to the proxy server 117. The proxy server may then extract the update field information and use it to update a stored profile. A web server may also update profile data by transmitting profile update information separately from data being sent to a user. For example, web server 131 may initiate a TCP/IP connection directly to a database or other application at the proxy 117 that can receive profile update information and update stored profile data at the proxy 117.

A proxy server 117 may selectively insert profile data in a HTTP request depending on the destination address of the request. For example, profile data may be inserted in a HTTP request being sent to server 131 but not in a request being sent to server 133. The proxy server 117 may determine web servers that are to receive profile data based on destination site filtering information stored at the proxy server. Thus, an on-line service provider (OSP) or information service provider (ISP) may establish filtering conditions that configure a proxy server 117 to send user profile data to business partners and affiliated web sites, but not to competitors. The filtering information may be a database of internet host names, internet protocol addresses, and/or wild-card characters to determine servers that are permitted and/or forbidden to receive profile data.

The profile data stored at the proxy server may include, for example, the login name and password of a user of the client computer, additional data maintained by an information service provider, such as demographic information, a history of the user's data requests, age, gender, interest, and information that is determined dynamically by the exchange of data between the proxy server and web servers.

The invention may be implemented in digital electronic circuitry, or in computer hardware, firmware, software, or in combinations of them. Apparatus of the invention may be implemented in a computer program product tangibly embodied in a machine-readable storage device for execution by a programmable processor; and method steps of the invention may be performed by a programmable processor executing a program of instructions to

perform functions of the invention by operating on input data and generating output. The invention may advantageously be implemented in one or more computer programs that are executable on a programmable system including at least one programmable processor coupled to receive data and instructions from, and to transmit data and instructions to, a data storage system, at least one input device, and at least one output device. Each computer program may be implemented in a high-level procedural or object-oriented programming language, or in assembly or machine language if desired; and in any case, the language may be a compiled or interpreted language. Suitable processors include, by way of example, both general and special purpose microprocessors. Generally, a processor will receive instructions and data from a read-only memory and/or a random access memory. Storage devices suitable for tangibly embodying computer program instructions and data include all forms of non-volatile memory, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, such as EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks such as internal hard disks and removable disks; magneto-optical disks; and CD-ROM disks. Any of the foregoing may be supplemented by, or incorporated in, specially-designed ASICs (application-specific integrated circuits).

A number of embodiments of the present invention have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, server, proxy, and client protocols need not use the HTTP protocol. Alternate protocols and data formats may be used such as file transfer protocol (FTP) or network news transfer protocol (NNTP). Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data transfer method performed at a proxy server, the method comprising:
intercepting a data request from a client computer that is directed to a target server;
augmenting the data request by adding user profile information; and
sending the augmented data request to the target server.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
establishing a data connection between the client computer and a network access point;
receiving login data from a client computer user; and
sending the login data to the proxy server.

3. The method of claim 2 further wherein:
establishing a data connection comprises assigning a network address to the client computer;
receiving login data comprises receiving a user identification; and
sending the login data comprises sending the user identification and the network address.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein:
receiving a data request further comprises receiving the network address; and
augmenting the data request comprises retrieving the user profile information from a proxy server database based on the received network address.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein augmenting based on the received network address comprises retrieving the user identification from a proxy server database based on the received network address and accessing user profile information based on the user identification.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the user profile information comprises data associated with a current user of the client computer.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the profile information at the proxy server from another computer and storing the profile information in a proxy server database.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the data request comprises a plurality of fields each comprising a header and data associated with the header.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the data request is a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) data request, the target server is a HTTP server, the client computer comprises a web browser application, and each header in the plurality of fields comprises a HTTP data request header.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein adding the user profile information comprises adding a field, the field comprising a profile header identifying the added field as a user profile field and profile data associated with the user.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the profile data comprises encrypted data.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:
receiving the augmented data request at the target server; and
decrypting the encrypted profile data.

13. The method of claim 1 further comprising identifying the target server as a server permitted to receive user profile information.

14. A computer program residing on a computer-readable medium, comprising instructions for causing a computer to:
receive a data request from a client computer directed at a target server;
augment the data request by adding user profile information; and

send the augmented data request to the target server.

15. The computer program of 14 further comprising instructions for causing a computer to:
receive a network address assigned to the client computer and login data associated with a user of the client computer; and
store the network address and login data in a record in a database.

16. The computer program of 14 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to access the login data by retrieving the record from the database based on receipt of the address assigned to the client computer in association with the receipt of the data request.

17. The computer program of claim 16 further comprising instructions for causing the computer to determine user profile information to be added to the data request based on the login data.

18. A proxy server comprising:
a database comprising records storing user profile information;
a network interface operatively coupled to a network to exchange data with a client computer and with a target server; and
a processor operatively coupled to the network interface, the database, and a memory comprising executable instructions for causing the processor to receive a data request from a client computer at the network interface, augment the data request by adding user profile information, and send the augmented data request to the network interface for delivery to the target server.

19. The server of claim 18 wherein the memory further comprises instructions for causing the processor to receive from the network interface user access data comprising a user identification and a network address associated with the user's connection to a network.

20. A method of processing a data request comprising:

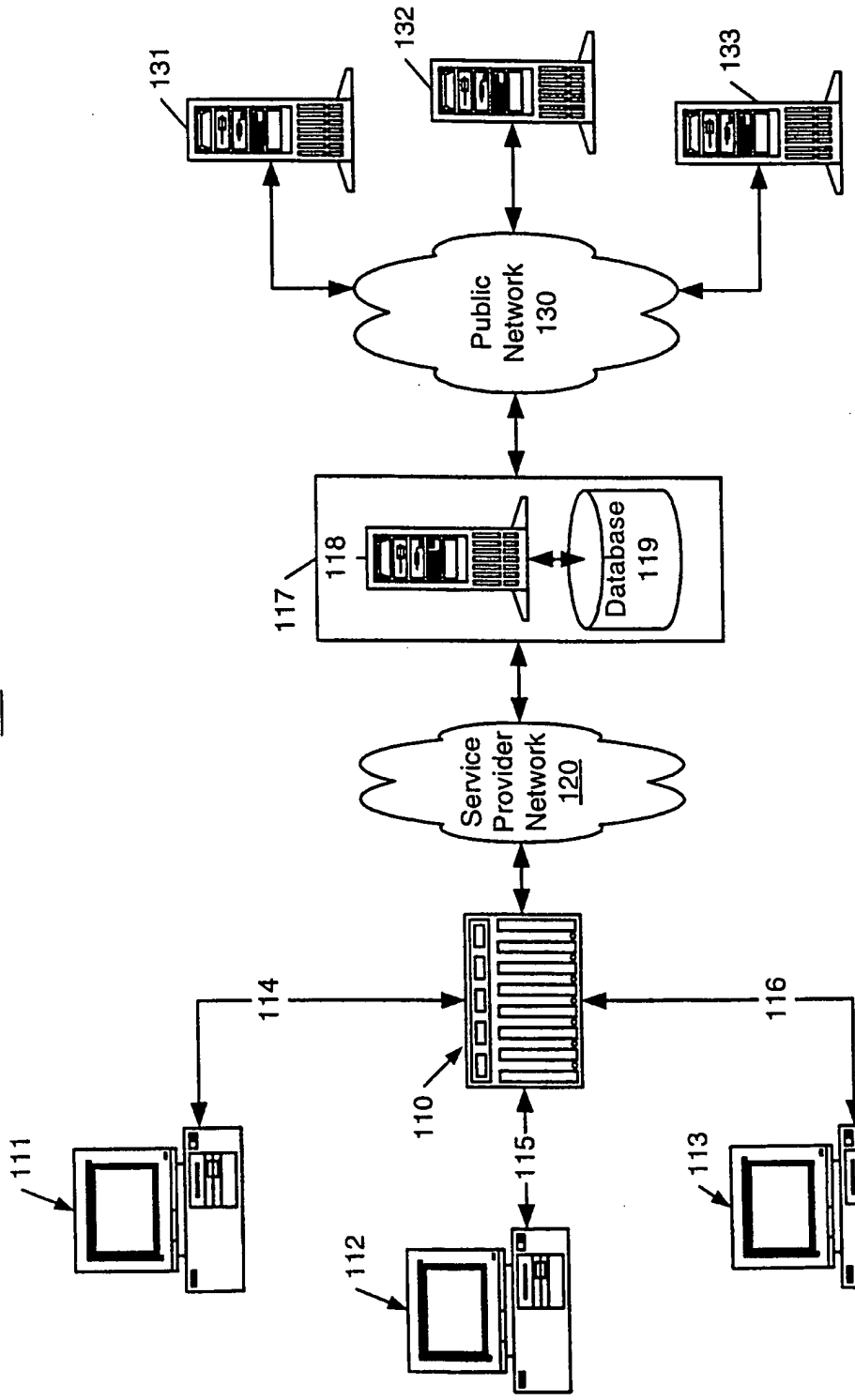
receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP)data request at a server from a proxy server;

identifying a field added to the data request by the proxy server and comprising user profile data and a header identifying the user profile data

determining a response to the data request based on the user profile data; and

sending the response to the proxy server for delivery to a client computer.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the user profile data is encrypted and determining a response based on the user profile data comprises decrypting the user profile data.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131
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Public Network 130
117
118
Database 119
Service Provider Network 120
110
111
112
113
114
115
116

Fig. 1

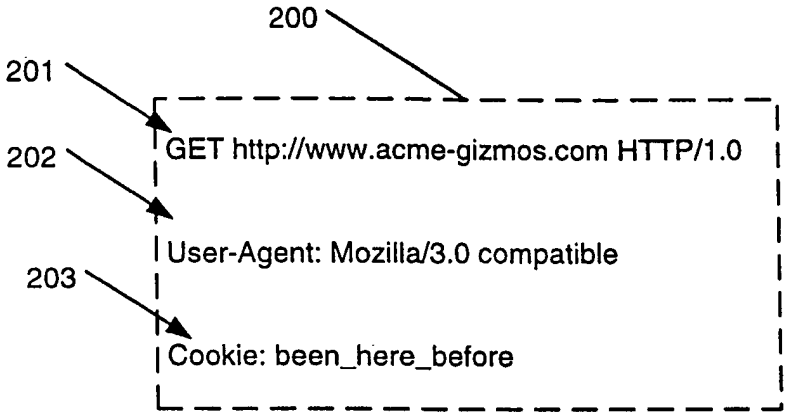
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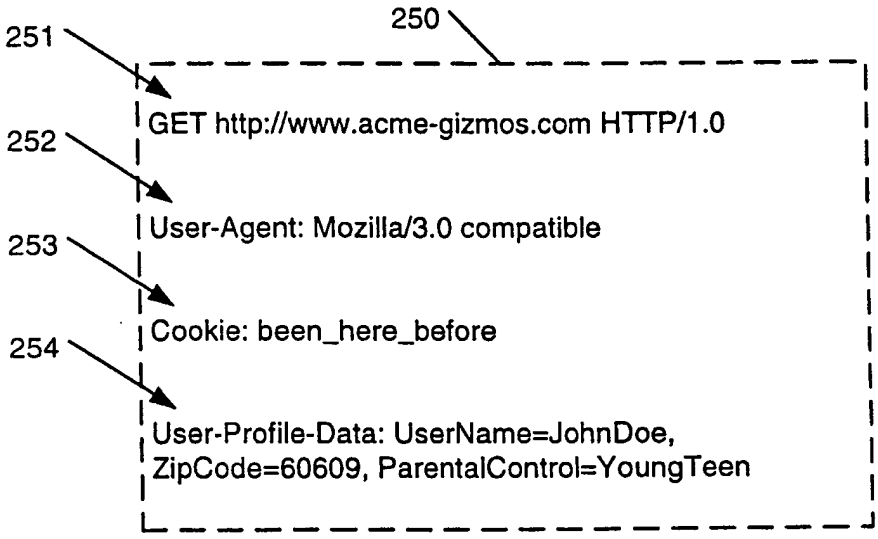
Fig. 2A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ZipCode=60609, ParentalControl=YoungTeen

Fig. 2B

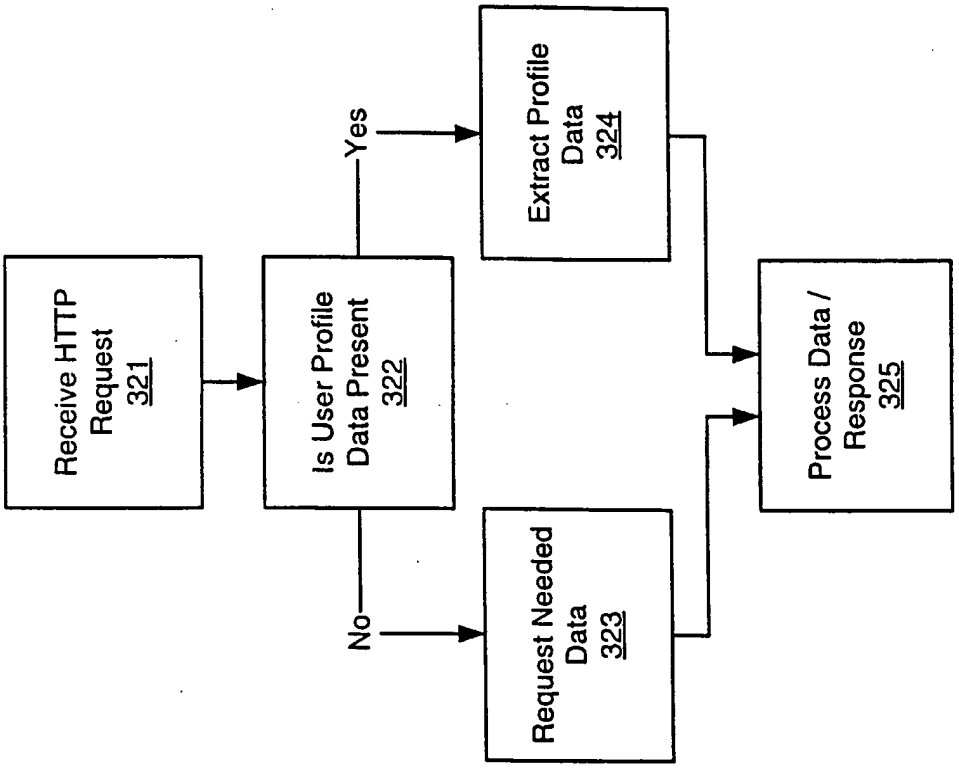
Receive HTTP Request 321
Is User Profile Data Present 322
Yes
Extract Profile Data 324
No
Request Needed Data 323
Process Data / Response 325

Fig. 3B

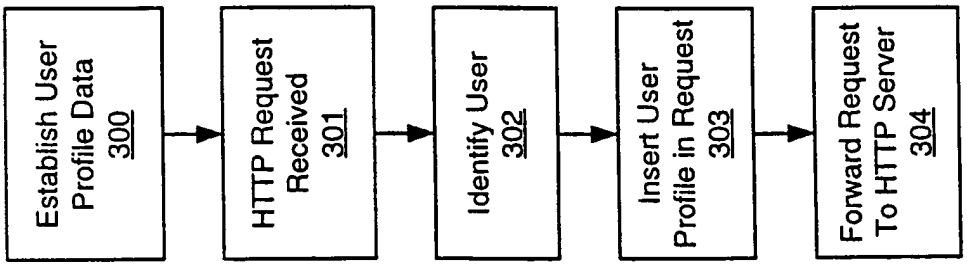
Establish User Profile Data 300
HTTP Request Received 301
Identify User 302
Insert User Profile in Request 303
Forward Request To HTTP Server 304

Fig. 3A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. ional Application No
PCT/US 00/04698

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G06F H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, IBM-TDB

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PETITCOLAS F A P ET AL: "WebGroup: a secure group access control tool for the World-Wide Web" PROCEEDINGS SEVENTH IEEE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES: INFRASTUCTURE FOR COLLABORATIVE ENTERPRISES (WET ICE '98) (CAT. NO.98TB100253), PROCEEDINGS OF WET ICE'98 - IEEE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES: INFRAS, pages 301-305, XP002142486 1998, Los Alamitos, CA, USA, IEEE Comput. Soc, USA ISBN: 0-8186-8751-7	1,2, 6-10, 13-15, 18-20
A	page 302, left-hand column, line 14 -page 303, right-hand column, line 9; figures 1-6	11,12,21

-/—

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
13 July 2000	26/07/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Polzer, A

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Ional Application No
PCT/US 00/04698

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 586 260 A (HU WEI-MING) 17 December 1996 (1996-12-17) abstract column 2, line 1 - line 49 column 3, line 58 -column 6, line 45; figures 1-4	1,2,6,7, 14,18
X	GABBER E ET AL: "How to make personalized Web browsing simple, secure and anonymous" FINANCIAL CRYPTOGRAPHY FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, FC '97. PROCEEDINGS, FINANCIAL CRYPTOGRAPHY FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, FC'97. PROCEEDINGS, ANGUILLA, 24-28 FEB. 1997, 'Online! pages 17-31, XP002059819 1997, Berlin, Germany, Springer-Verlag, Germany ISBN: 3-540-63594-7 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www.math.tau.ac.il/{matias/recent.html> 'retrieved on 2000-07-13! page 20, line 32 -page 25, line 7; figures 1-4	1,2,6,8, 9,14,18
A	WO 98 33130 A (MOTOROLA INC) 30 July 1998 (1998-07-30) abstract page 8, line 29 -page 13, line 12; figures 2,3 page 14, line 11 -page 15, line 34; figure 5 page 18, line 32 -page 25, line 8; figures 7-9	1-7, 13-19

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inte ional Application No
PCT/US 00/04698

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US 5586260 A	17-12-1996	NONE	
WO 9833130 A	30-07-1998	US 6049821 A	11-04-2000
		AU 714951 B	13-01-2000
		AU 5801098 A	18-08-1998
		EP 1010099 A	21-06-2000